Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please amend the full paragraph beginning at line 21 to read as follows:

The aerospace industry has responded to the low cost composites challenge by developing innovative manufacturing techniques, such as producing unitized parts with automated processes. The most significant technology promising reduced cost fabrication is the fiber placement process, which allows large, complex shaped composite structures to be produced faster, approximately 40% cheaper, and with greater quality than traditional approaches. Fiber placement has been used to manufacture military hardware such as the inlet duct of the Joint Strike Fighter (see the article by A. L. Velocci in Aviation Week and Space Technology (May 11, 1998. pp. 75-76) ~~and Fig. 1~~) and the landing gear pod fairing of the C-17 transport (as discussed by V. P. McConnell in High Performance Composites (July/August, 1998. pp. 48-50)), as well as lighter aircraft for civil aviation (as mentioned in the report by E. H. Phillips in Aviation Week and Space Technology (August 31, 1998. p. 39)). Fig. 1 depicts the inlet duct **5** of the Boeing Joint Strike Fighter (X-32) which duct is fabricated in accordance with the known fiber placement process.
